

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Head Office : Broadcasting House, London, W.1

Caversham Park, Reading, Berks.

TELEPHONE : READING 72742

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES : BROADCASTS, TELEX, LONDON

Reference:
07.MS.JTC

[Redacted]
F.B.I.S.,
2430 E Street NW,
Washington 25, D.C.

4th May 1954

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 8th April and your cable received here on 27th April confirming that you will arrive in London on 31st May. I am very glad you have been able to make these arrangements, and entirely agree that we should hold a formal joint coordinating meeting while you are here, probably on either Wednesday, 2nd June, or Thursday the 3rd, depending on [Redacted] commitments, of which I am not yet quite certain.

We shall indeed be glad to discuss the points which you have tabled in your letter and of course any other matters which you wish. So far as we are concerned, I have no specific points to add except the matter of visits to Caversham by organisations such as Radio Free Europe, which I think [Redacted] has already mentioned to you. It is not that we are not willing to have them but I feel that from the point of view of both FBIS and ourselves it would be more satisfactory that there should be a clear cut channel for such visits.

The main matter which is concerning us just now, as you know, is the budget and I hope I shall be able to tell you more about this when you come. Everything at the present is somewhat indefinite and discussions are still going on here with Government Departments, and may well continue for some time. Should anything emerge which I feel you would wish to know before you leave Washington, I will of course send you a signal.

We are all greatly looking forward to your visit.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

AMERICAN EMBASSY

LONDON, W. 1.

5 Grosvenor Square

6 May 1954

STAT

[Redacted]
Chief, FBIS
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

STAT

Dear [Redacted]

On 21 April, the BBC was host to Mr. Robert Sorenson, Chief Audience and Analysis Section of Radio Free Europe. The visit took place only after several days of diplomatic activity involving a BBC liaison official, Campbell, Joe Evans, PAO of the Embassy, General Deane and myself in a series of tortuous and embarrassing maneuvers. I can supply you the details at a later date, but wish only to say now that the difficulty was caused primarily by the failure of the visiting official to seek clearance in the first instance through the London contact who could authorize me to liaise on his behalf. Finally, Mr. Sorenson sought out [Redacted] who after securing the concurrence of General Deane, requested the visit be allowed.

STAT

Campbell states he would like to have a regular procedure established whereby such visitors obtain FBIS approval in advance. I think he may want to discuss this at the forthcoming meeting. I am of course perfectly willing to act in their behalf, but have interpreted your instructions as precluding contacts of any sort and have therefore been disinclined to act in any official capacity.

RFE also caused BBC some embarrassment recently by showing copies of their Reception Notes, sent to them as a courtesy, to a representative of the German Federal Press Office in Bonn, who promptly asked to be placed on the distribution list. This was behind BBC's recent action in classifying these notes "For Authorised Recipients Only".

I fully realize what is involved, but it is my feeling that it might well be in the general interest for some steps to be taken to improve coordination in this field so as to eliminate any possible disturbance to present satisfactory arrangements and relations.

Sincerely,

STAT

For

[Redacted]
Chief, London Bureau

5 Grosvenor Square

6 May 1954

STAT

[redacted]
Chief, FBIS
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear [redacted]

STAT

On 21 April, the EBC was host to Mr. Robert Sorenson, Chief Audience and Analysis Section of Radio Free Europe. The visit took place only after several days of diplomatic activity involving a EBC liaison official, Campbell, Joe Evans, PAO of the Embassy, General Deane and myself in a series of tortuous and embarrassing maneuvers. I can supply you the details at a later date, but wish only to say now that the difficulty was caused primarily by the failure of the visiting official to seek clearance in the first instance through the London contact who could authorize me to liaise on his behalf. Finally, Mr. Sorenson sought out Joe Evans who after securing the concurrence of General Deane, requested the visit be allowed.

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Sincerely,

STAT

[redacted]
Chief, London Bureau